

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 /050 W
-----035484 061948Z /64

O 061932Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7958
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 03365

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: TORIES DROP AND LIBERALS HOLD FIRM IN JUNE
GALLUP POLL

REF: OTTAWA 2871

1. GALLUP POLL, CONDUCTED IN JUNE AND RELEASED JULY 5, SHOWED A PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) DROP WHILE THE LIBERALS HELD TO THEIR FIGURE OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH. PC DROPPED 2 POINTS TO 37 PERCENT AND THE LIBERALS REMAINED CONSTANT AT 43 PERCENT. NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) PICKED UP A POINT TO 16 PERCENT; 4 PERCENT SUPPORTED OTHER PARTIES; AND UNDECIDEDS ROSE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH'S 27 PERCENT TO 32 PERCENT.

2. COMMENT: POLL RESULTS HAVE SPARKED A VARIETY OF REACTIONS. SOME PRESS REPORTS ASSERT THAT LIBERALS' WIDENING THEIR LEAD TO SIX POINTS MEANS THAT PM TRUDEAU IS LIKELY TO CALL NATIONAL ELECTION NEXT FALL. LIBERAL ONTARIO CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN ROYCE FRITH, HOWEVER, REPORTEDLY SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF NEW FIGURES WOULD INFLUENCE TRUDEAU DECISION. TORY SPOKESMAN BRAVELY CLAIMED DATA WERE NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTICULARLY BAD NEWS FOR HIS PARTY. HE POINTED OUT THAT IN PAST FEW ELECTIONS TORIES HAD STARTED CAMPAIGN FURTHER BEHIND IN POLLS AND HAD NARROWED THE GAP DURING CAMPAIGN. IN 1972, FOR EXAMPLE, TORIES STARTED CAMPAIGN 15 POINTS BEHIND AND ENDED WITH 107 SEATS TO LIBERALS' 109, AND 35 PERCENT OF VOTE COMPARED TO LIBERALS 38 PERCENT. IN 1974, TORIES WERE DOWN 14 PERCENT JUST BEFORE CAMPAIGN AND

GAINED 35 PERCENT OF VOTE COMPARED TO LIBERALS' 44 PERCENT
OF VOTE. IN EMBASSY VIEW, MOST RECENT POLL RESULTS SUP-
PORT EACH CONCLUSION ABOVE, AND THIS ILLUSTRATES THAT
ELECTORAL SIGNS HERE REMAIN UNCLEAR. ENDERS

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NNN

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